

"comparative biochemistry"

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Notes on central themes of memoir on ELT.

cc: HAZ SLD

1) Personal biography
Narrative sequence; Timeline; some elements of ELT character
{contra character images notorious scientists}

2) Intellectual history "Neurospora"
what was the INNOVATION?

Not any revelation about "1 gene: 1 enzyme theory"
(contra N Horowitz)
But they went beyond a rediscovery of Canod.
But conceptual and experimental method of analysis
of developmental, physiological, biochemical
pathways.

But add after thoughts
about current status
on 1:1 theory

Rooted in comparative method (Aristotle, J S Mill, ...)
Gene substitution far more precise than inter-species *
comparisons.

Imputed neglect of Garrod as anticipation. WHO neglected him? *
"geneticists" vs. biochemists. ELT one of first hybrids

3) communication between disciplines. ((Beadle → Garrod))
administrator of interconnection.

4) Institutional facilitations. GEB and RF (Warren Weaver roles)
postdoctoral fellowship
foreign travel

and dampers: Stanford Biology Dept. *
{to present text, add van Niel as champion}

articulated!
w w program!

----- NOT included: -----

11) much of ELT's personal life. It intersected his career mainly
via his move

12) much detail of his research after work with Beadle.

13) personal relationship GWB/ ELT.

In my view, GWB greatly underestimated ELT, though GWB
certainly had the strategic view; ELT was not so
conceptually imaginative. Seen in retrospect, he did
have very broad training and interest for a biochemist,
comparable in US only to van Niel. In 1941, hardly a
dozen people in US could have given his course in
comparative biochemistry.

[cf Florkin
Baldwin]

GWB did little to enhance ELT's career after 1941,
pointedly did not invite him to Caltech. There is no
GWB file in ELT correspondence; I wonder about
converse in Caltech archives.

[ELT file
Nobel '58 ?]

Moved
great many
times

amplify -

Characterize